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Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1942

together with the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Tonbridge
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Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1942

on the

Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Sevenoaks Urban District

by the

Medical Officer of Health

Together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector

SECTION A: STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,720
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1942	13,370
Number of occupied houses, December, 1942	4,058
Rateable Value of District	£166,827
Sum represented by a penny rate	£662

SECTION B: VITAL STATISTICS

		Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Live Births	Legitimate ...	223	114	109	17.3
	Illegitimate ...	9	4	5	
	Total Births ...	232	118	114	

				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Stillbirths	7	4	3	29.2

				Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Deaths	131	68	63	9.8

Deaths from puerperal causes:

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil	—
Other puerperal causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:	
All infants per 1,000 live births	47
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	40
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	222
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	21
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The number of Births registered as belonging to the District during 1942 was 232, of which 118 were males and 114 were females. The Birth Rate for the year was equal to 17.3 per thousand of population.

Deaths.—During the year 131 Deaths were registered of persons belonging to the District. This gives a Death Rate of 9.8 per thousand of population.

Infant Deaths.—Eleven deaths were registered during the year as occurring in Infants under one year of age. Of these, 9 were legitimate and 2 were illegitimate. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the year was 47 per thousand registered births.

	Sevenoaks Urban District.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate	17.3	15.8
Death Rate	9.8	11.6
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	47	49

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following Table shows the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified, together with the number removed to hospital, and the total deaths:—

Disease	Number Notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	12	...
Diphtheria...	7	7	1
Pneumonia	3	...	4*
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	1	...
Measles	78	...	...
TOTALS	103	21	6

*all forms of pneumonia

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY & CASE RATES for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1942.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Sevenoaks Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population *				
BIRTHS:					
Live	15.8	17.3	18.4	14.0	17.3
Still	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.52
DEATHS:					
All Causes	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.9	9.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	—
Diphtheria	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.07
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.07
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	—
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under one year of age	49	59	46	60	47
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6	4.3
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population				
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15	0.07
Scarlet Fever	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86	0.89
Whooping Cough	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72	—
Diphtheria	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	0.52
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	—
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	5.83
Pneumonia	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	0.22
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.42	Not available.			—
Others	1.59				—
Total	2.01				—
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Puerperal Fever	12.61	15.94	10.80	3.10	4.1
Puerperal Pyrexia				17.69 including Puerperal Fever.	

* A (—) signifies that there are no deaths

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table shows the number of new cases notified, together with the number of deaths registered:—

	Notified			Deaths		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	7	4	11	3	—	3
Non-Pulmonary	4	1	5	—	—	—
Total	11	5	16	3	—	3

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is carried out by the Kent County Council, and during the year the following number of patients from this District have received treatment:

Patients receiving sanatorium treatment 11
Patients receiving dispensary treatment 10
Dispensary supervision only 34

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 176.

No action under the above was required to be taken during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 880 new cases received treatment, the total number of attendances being 1,871.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following number of cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year:—

Scarlet Fever 12
Diphtheria 7
Cerebro-spinal Fever 1
Poliomyelitis 1

LABORATORY WORK.

The Kent County Laboratory at Maidstone carries out the bacteriological work in connection with this District.

During the year the following number of specimens have been examined:—

	Positive	Negative	Total.
Swabs for Diphtheria	5	15	20
Sputa for Tubercle	12	1	13
Faeces		1	1
Blood		2	2
Totals	17	19	36

DRAINAGE.

No important changes in the drainage of the District took place during the year.

SANITARY STATISTICS.

No. of houses connected to the sewer	No. of houses not connected to sewers	No. of houses not provided with a piped water supply	No. of wells still in use for purpose of a water supply
3859	144	nil	nil

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

W. C's	Pan or pail Closets	Midden Privies	Ashpits separate from Midden Privies	Cesspools	
				No. of	No. of houses into
5787	5	2	3	133	140

WATER SUPPLY.

No extensions of the mains were carried out during the year.

During the year the following number of bacteriological examinations of water were made:—

Domestic supply 11
Public baths supply 5

HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 5

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 29

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 5

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year Without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 5

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

4.—**Housing Act, 1936: Part IV—Overcrowding.**

(a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at end of year: No accurate details.

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein: No accurate details.

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein: No accurate details.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... Nil

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... Nil

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which you may consider it desirable to report.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

By Local Authority ... ... Nil

By other persons 1

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

No important alterations were made either in the method or disposal of house refuse during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The contents of cesspools are emptied by the Council on the request of the occupiers of the premises concerned.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare work in this area is under the control of the Urban District Council, and does not come within the scope of the general County Scheme.

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

An Ante-natal Clinic has been established, the number of sessions held during the year being 24. The total attendance was 313, giving an average attendance of 14 per session.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

One Maternity and Child Welfare Centre has been opened for this District.

The following Table shows the number of attendances, etc., during the year:—

	Residents.	Evacuees.
Number of names on register:		
Mothers	331	24
Children	340	28
Number of attendances:		
Mothers	3,642	239
Children	3,861	243
Number of sessions held: 51.		
Average attendance per session	80	5

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT.

During the year 110 sessions have been held for Sunlight Treatment, at which 1,326 treatments were given. The number of children receiving treatment was 65.

FREE AND ASSISTED SUPPLY OF MILK.

During the year 23 lbs. of dried milk was supplied free, and 1,712 lbs. of dried milk was sold at cost price.

HEALTH VISITOR.

The Council employs the services of one Health Visitor, who works under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

The following Table shows the work carried out by her during the year:—

Primary visits	210
Revisits	1,906
Visits to Infectious Disease	40
Visits re Diphtheria Immunisation	118
Miscellaneous visits	104
Total visits	2,478

VOLUNTARY WORKERS.

I have again great pleasure in placing on record my appreciation of the work done in connection with the mothers and babies of the town by the Voluntary Workers associated with the Mothers' and Babies' Welfare.

In these difficult days, particularly, the work done in this connection is the more valuable.

I am convinced that without this assistance it would be impossible to maintain the efficiency of this most important work at the pitch to which I am glad to say it has attained.

During these days, when the demands on everybody's time are so intensified, it is most gratifying to find that the voluntary work given in this all-important phase of Public Health activity is so well maintained.

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES.

The powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Nursing Homes has been delegated to the Urban District Council by the County Council.

There are eight registered premises within the District, the number of beds available being: 25 for maternity cases and 33 for other cases.

SCHOOLS.

There are four elementary schools within the District.

SUMMARY OF REGULATED TRADES.

	Number of Premises	Visits Paid	Defects.	
			Found.	Remedied.
Dairies	8	144	3	3
Cowsheds	1	20	—	—
Slaughterhouses:				
Licensed ... ... / Registered ...	2	695	2	2
Bakehouses	7	82	1	1
Piggeries	—	—	—	
Other food preparing places	32	220	3	3
Factories . ... / Workshops	62	47	3	3
Common Lodging Houses... / Houses Let in Lodgings ...	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	112	1208	12	12

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The following number of licences have been granted by the Council during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested	6
Pasteurised	3
Pasteurisers	1

During the year 34 samples of milk were examined at the County Laboratory, Maidstone. These samples consisted of:—

Pasteurised	28
Ordinary	6

MEAT.—CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

The following Table shows the work done in connection with the slaughtering of animals for human consumption:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	930	654	481	9942	1119
Number inspected	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis:—					
Whole carcases condemned ...			1	15	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	10		3	26	26
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	0.93	...	0.331	0.441	2.949
Tuberculosis Only:—					
Whole carcases condemned ...	9	23	1	...	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	8	...	...	12
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.698	4.74	0.207	...	1.34

SHOPS ACTS.

During the year 90 inspections of shops were made, and on 11 occasions minor contraventions were found, all of which were dealt with by informal action.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There is one public swimming bath in the District, the water passing through a continuous filtration plant.

Five samples of the water were submitted for bacteriological examination, and the result in each case was satisfactory.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No Council houses were found to be infested during the year.

During the year one other house was disinfested by the use of Zaldecide and steam disinfection.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings during the year to enforce the abatement of nuisances.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS.

No Acts or Bye-laws were adopted during the year.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1942.

Cause of Death	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid fever	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	1	1
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	3	...	3
Other Tuberculous diseases ...	...	...	...
Syphyilis	...	...	...
Influenza	...	1	1
Measles	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	..	...	...
Cancer of Bronchial Cavity ...	1	1	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	...	5
Cancer of the Breast	...	2	2
Cancer, all other forms	8	4	12
Diabetes	2	1	3
Intra cranial vesc. lesions ...	3	8	11
Heart disease...	14	21	35
Other diseases of circulatory system	2	1	3
Bronchitis	4	4	8
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Other respiratory diseases	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum...	1	...	1
Diarrhœa (under two years) ...	1	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	4	1	5
Nephritis	...	...	...
Post and post-abort. sepsis... ...	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...	...
Premature Birth	2	2	4
Congenital malformation and birth injury	2	...	2
Suicide	...	2	2
Road traffic accidents	1	1	2
Other violent causes	2	...	2
All Other causes	9	11	20
TOTALS ...	68	63	131

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Argyle Road.
Sevenoaks.

Ladies and Gentlemen, 1942.

I have the honour of presenting to you a summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year 1942.

General Inspections.

The routine inspections of the District have been carried out as far as circumstances permitted, and at all times special attention has been paid to the premises registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, and to the inspection of meat and other food premises. Few complaints have been registered during the year, and these have all been dealt with by informal action.

There are a number of properties in the town still in the occupation of His Majesty's Forces, and with the exception of a few minor complaints, these have been well maintained. I have, on a number of occasions, consulted with the D.C.R.E. on the question of drainage, and have at all times received assistance from the officials of his department.

I have found at all times that the Military Authorities are only too willing to assist in maintaining a satisfactory sanitary condition of billets, and particularly so has this been under the Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

The nuisances discovered during the year have all been dealt with without resorting to statutory action, and although there are many additional families housed in the town, little trouble has been experienced. I am pleased to report that only one minor case of bug infestation was brought to my notice during the year, and this was dealt with by fumigation and the removal of all bedding, etc., for steam disinfection.

During the year 44 rooms were fumigated following infectious diseases or at the request of residents, and 81 batches of bedding, etc., were removed to the Council's Hospital, Oak Lane, for steam disinfection.

Drainage.

There were no extensions to the main sewerage system of the District or to the surface water sewers during the year. One new house was erected and connected to the Council's sewer, and 42 defects relating to cleansing or defective drainage were dealt with.

Water Supplies.

During the year no complaints were received concerning the domestic water supply of the town. Eleven samples were taken from various parts of the District and submitted to the County Laboratories, Maidstone, for bacteriological examination. The reports upon these were all satisfactory.

Five samples of water were also taken from the Public Swimming Baths owned by the Council in Eardley Road, Sevenoaks, and submitted for examination, and the reports upon these were all satisfactory.

Milk Supplies.

The milk supply of the District has, in spite of wartime conditions, been maintained in a very satisfactory condition. The bulk of the supply is delivered to consumers in bottles, and samples taken approximately monthly. There is still one modern Pasteurising Plant in the area, together with one farm at which Accredited Milk is produced. A total of 164 visits were paid to the premises under the Milk and Dairies Order during the year.

Thirty-four samples of milk were taken and submitted to the County Laboratories, Maidstone, for examination, and the reports upon these, on the whole, were very satisfactory. The samples consisted of:—

Pasteurised	28
Ordinary	6

Under the Milk (Special) Designations Order, nine Milk Dealers' Licences were issued for the sale of Designated Milk, and in addition, one Pasteurisers' Licence was also issued in respect of Clenches Dairy, Sevenoaks, for the pasteurisation of milk.

Slaughterhouses, Meat and Food Inspections.

Special attention has been paid to the work under the above headings. The two slaughterhouses in the town have been continually used by the Ministry of Food for the slaughtering of animals. On the whole these have been conducted satisfactorily, and good co-operation exists between my Department

and the Manager of the Slaughterhouses appointed by the Ministry of Food. A total of 694 visits were paid to the slaughterhouses during the year.

The animals killed in the slaughterhouses were allocated to the Sevenoaks Urban and Rural areas, together with other districts as required by the Ministry. The following is the number of animals slaughtered during the year: Cattle, 930; Cows, 654; Calves, 481; Pigs, 1,119; Sheep, 9,927.

During the same period 14 tons 3 qrs. 9 lbs. of unsound meat was dealt with in the slaughterhouses. This is properly recorded and dealt with under the Salvage Scheme of the Ministry of Food. In addition, 713 lbs. and 368 tins of other foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption in various food premises in the town and allocated to salvage.

General.

A.R.P. work and the work under the Fuel and Lighting Registration and Distribution Order, 1942, under which I act as Local Fuel Overseer for the Council, have again claimed much time. The work under the latter Order considerably increased during the year, and in this connection I would like to record my best thanks to the staff in my Department, who have worked extremely hard during the year.

Summary.

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers Order, I give below the number and nature of inspections carried out:—

Bakehouses	82
Slaughterhouses and Food Preparing Places	915
Shop Inspections	72
Infectious Diseases	109
Factory and Workshops	47
Dairies	164
Nuisances	99
Miscellaneous	120
Petroleum Inspections	27
Rats and Mice Destruction Act	32
Informal Notices Served	65
Total	1,732

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GYPPS,

Sanitary Inspector.